

<crew talk>

Q: This is Oral History Number 427. The following oral history interview was conducted by Commander James Antonellis and Mr. Jack Green, for the National Park Service, USS Arizona Memorial and the Naval Historical Center, at the Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii, on December 6, 2001, at 9:00 p.m. The person being interviewed is Mr. Joseph Curtis Tyler Jr., who was an ensign at the Receiving Station Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941. For the record, please state your full name, your place of birth and birth date.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Joseph Curtis Tyler Jr. Born in Spokane, Washington May 11, 1916.

Q: What did you consider to be your hometown in 1941?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: We were living in Honolulu.

Q: What were your parents' names?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Joseph Curtis Tyler and Annette Udan Tyler [ph?].

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: One brother, one sister. Brother deceased.

Q: Where did you go to high school, and where did you go to college?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: I went to New Mexico Military Institute for two years and Piedmont High School, uh.. near uh.. Oakland, California, graduated from Piedmont in 1933.

Q: Where did you receive your commission from?

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Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: I worked in the Merchant Marine for two years and then went to University of California and had the Naval ROTC training there, two years of it, uh.. came to Hawaii, at the end of my sophomore year, and uh.. worked in Honolulu. And uh.. we had the draft for <laughs> in November of 1940. I drew number 45. And I said to my wife, "No way I'm gonna be in the Army." And I went down to the old naval station on am-- Ala Moana Boulevard and told them, "Two years Merchant Marine, two years Naval ROTC," showed them my credentials. I'd been the honor student there. And they said, "Come back in about a week." And I did. And they said, "Hold up your right hand. You're sworn in as an ensign." DVG they called it, Deck Volunteer General. And that was probably in March or April. And on May 6, I got orders to active duty to go to Pearl Harbor and report to the receiving station.

Q: Wow, no time wasted.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Hm?

Q: No time wasted...

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: No, sir.

Q: ...right?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: <laughs>

Q: And you didn't have far to travel either now, did you?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: No, we lived in Manoa Valley. And, you know, uh.. 20-minute drive in those days, uh.. no traffic, <laughs> narrow old road <laughs>.

Q: So everything was pretty convenient.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Extremely so. Even more so uh.. on uh.. December 1, I had a call from the housing officer, who was an attorney in

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Honolulu, been called to active duty, telling me that there were wonderful brand-new quarters in Makalapa going vacant. And we were living in Manoa Valley at \$25 ensign's housing allowance. And he said, "We've got these magnificent quarters. They're available. They're fully furnished and two story, three bedroom, two bath." My wife and I looked, said, we'll take it. <laughs> And we moved in on December 1.

Q: Wow.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Right across from-- 42 Halawa Drive, right across from the last tank and just a block from Singpec [ph?].

Q: Since, I guess one could say, for all intents and purposes, you were a local, having spent so much of your life here, not to digress but, could you describe what a bit of Hawaii was like then, in the '30s and the early, you know, '41, growing up?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: I should say so. I came in '36 and uh.. worked my way over on an Army transport with ten bucks in my pocket, got off at Pier 1 under the Aloha Tower. That was the tallest building on the island. You could see it from anywhere on the leeward side. Uh.. Honolulu was uh.. really a small town. And my wife, uh.. who was born in Kona but had been uh.. in school at Bunaho [ph?] and working in Honolulu, knew everybody. And I eventually got a job at American Factors at the foot of Fort Street [ph?]. And she worked just opposite the Aloha Tower. She worked up the street at Bergstrom Music. And as an example, we'd meet for lunch and walk up the sidewalk on Fort Street, which was a one-way uh.. street then for cars, and we'd know almost everybody on the street. Uh.. you walk out into Waikiki on Kalakaua Avenue. Uh.. hardly any commercial at all. And, uh.. again, you'd-you'd know uh.. for-- every fourth or fifth person you met on the street. You'd go to the beach. <laughs> It would be uncrowded. And just, uh.. you know, no tourists. 'Cause the only way they could get here was by ship. And uh.. a regular thing everybody did was to go, Friday, down to- to the pier, just below Aloha Tower, and watch the Lerli [ph?], the Matson [ph?], Matsonia [ph?], Malola [ph?] come in, uh.. greet all the passengers and all. And for fun, you know, I was just telling my son today, we'd get an old junk car and head for Wahiawa, go up over the hill, come down to Haleiwa and around the island. And- and uh.. when we were married, in '38, at uh.. at uh.. St. Andrews, down there in Honolulu, we spent our honeymoon, in m-- Punaluhu [ph?], on the other side of the island. We drove out there <laughs> today to see it. Uh..

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Honolulu was- was uh.. a Navy town. Always saw sailors in town. And uh.. when you went to any kind of a social function, there were always naval officers there. And I guess there were Army, too. But they weren't quite as noticeable. And so my whole orientation had been toward the Navy. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. We used to have Fleet Week there, and the whole damn Pacific Fleet would come in. And you'd go down to the f-- Crawley [ph?] Piers, and they'd take you out to the battleships and the carriers. You could even get on a submarine. And so, uh.. you know, my whole life was aimed at the sea. And when I got a chance to go into the Navy, I was delighted to do it. But Honolulu was a quite- quite uh.. low-key wonderful place to live before the war.

Q: You worked at the receiving station. What was your position there?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yes, well, uh.. the skipper there was Commander Peterson. And uh.. he was married to a local girl, as I was. Although he was regular Navy and I was reserve. And uh.. I remember, when I reported aboard, he said, "Well, the lieutenant-- first lieutenant's position is vacant." And I said, "Yes, sir. What's that?" And he said, "Well, you'll be responsible for everything uh.. that's materiel and condition the three decks where all uh.. enlisted personnel lived." And uh.. he said, "We're building a brand-new recreation center right across the street called Block Arena. And when that's completed, you're gonna be the officer in charge." And I said, "Sounds interesting." So that was my first duty. We were right there at the fleet landing. So a lot of activity. And, of course, new construction began right after the- the bombing. And that's the purpose of a receiving station, to house all the men who were being transferred to new construction, uh.. house all those who come in uh.. for the first time, getting ready to go aboard ship.

Q: Since the fleet had just recently been transferred from San Diego to Hawaii, did you see a lot of build-up, a lot of funds coming in, a lot of more men, materiel?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Indeed. Uh.. I wasn't so aware of the funds. But there's no question about the ships in the harbor and the activity. And in the Navy Yard itself, uh.. the civilian working force must've gone up considerably. Because there was an awful lot of dry dock activity, uh.. work along the 1010 Dock there. Not to mention over on the submarine side, where there was so much activity.

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Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, it was very noticeable.

Q: What do you remember about December 6, the day before?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, uh.. it was a Saturday. It was peacetime. Uh.. my duty stationed at uh.. receiving ship was to be the next day at noon. A good friend of mine named Ed Simmons [ph?][was getting married, had a bachelor party over at Kaniopi [ph?]. And <laughs> we went to the bachelor party and uh.. that was the big thing Saturday night, got home about some ungodly hour, one or two o'clock in the morning, which was already the seventh.

Q: Right. And then what can you tell me about the 7th?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, our house, at 42 Halawa Drive, you know the big oil tanks up there?

Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: We were right next to the one just above the sub base. It was about 100 feet from our bedroom.

Q: Close to Singpec Fleet, right?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, and the bedrooms faced over the sub base and at Fort Island. My wife and I had the front bedroom. Her mother was spending the weekend with us the other bedroom. Uh.. my so-- my brother-in-law was here from Kona also. I heard this loud explosion. I sat up in bed, s- still asleep, thought I was anyway, sat up in bed and looked out. And I saw the- the smoke and heard the loud uh.. explosions on- on the south end of Fort Island. Was no activity on the ships at that time, nothing. But, uh.. you know, was obviously something going on down there. And as I looked out, uh.. I was telling Curtis today, this low-flying plane was coming. You know, those houses at Makalapa [ph?] up maybe 150, 200 feet. This plane was just about the level of our bedroom, and he was headed our way. And I thought,

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"Wow, what is this?" Here we are right next to this tank. And he made a sharp bank to the-- to the right. And I saw the dots [ph?] under the wing, and I jabbed my wife. I said, "Get up, honey. It's the Japs." 'Cause the newspapers had been full of all of this negotiation. Uh.. and, you know, uh.. the uh.. Japanese said, you know, "We'll- we'll let you know before we do anything." And every day there were these discussions going on. And you'd hear it on a radio, catch it in a newspaper. So uh.. right away I knew what we'd been worrying about was gonna ha-- was happening. And uh.. so I had uh.. I had a Buick 32 <laughs> old roadster, with the top down, sitting in the garage. We all jumped into our clothes and got down and into the car. My brother-in-law sat in the back, in the rumble seat. And uh.. my wife and her mother sat alongside. We started down uh.. Makalapa Drive. We were on 42 Halawa, which is right on the corner of Singpec here. And I turned down and started heading for, you know, where you go down to get out. And we got strafed. And uh.. so I pulled into Captain Momsen's garage. Uh.. he was a s-submarine skipper. And he was on Amalkasia [ph?] Road. And I pulled in there. And uh.. this guy went by strafing the road. And I can't remember exactly how long we were there, maybe a minute or so, until my brother-in-law said, "It's all clear." I backed out, and we started heading down toward the- the gate. And the top was down. We looked up, and we saw these bombers in the air. And I thought, "Am I taking my wife and her mother and me and all right into the middle of it, what do we do?" So I made a sharp-- I don't know if you've been up to Makalapa. But I made a sharp turn to the left. We were on h-- uh.. Makalapa Drive. The upper one was where the admiral's quarters were. And we went right up to the top there, and I'd never been up there. That was kind of officers' country for ensigns. But when we got up there and looked at the top, uh.. there was a cane field directly behind. It kind of dropped uh.. gradually down. And then you remember that used to be uh.. something or other crater. I can't remember the name. But I'd never been up there. And uh.. there was a cane field. So the cane fields in those days were in furrows. You know, uh.. the cane would be planted here. There'd be an irrigation ditch and a furrow and then another one. Uh.. Johnny, my bother-in-law, lay on top of his mother uh.. looking up. And I lay on top of my wife in neighboring gullies looking up and watching. And I can see it to this very minute, those bombers coming in in a perfect V and seeing the bombs let go and disappearing out of our sight. Because we were uh.. here was the top of the hill. We were right here like this. And I don't know how long it took before there was uh.. suddenly a terrible explosion and a lot of concussion. And uh.. I don't know. We were cussing and saying, "What in the hell is that?" I thought maybe something had dropped. And there was another one perhaps 30 seconds later. We finally discovered we were uh.. almost under the muzzle of a five-inch AA battery that was mounted up there.

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So we got outta there in a hurry. And as we were coming out and going toward the submarine base gate, the Arizona exploded. And I was telling Curtis, I said, "You know, that's the biggest, flashiest explosion I have ever heard in my life and loud." You know, we were, what, half a mile maybe from there to- to what's now the submarine base gate? Uh.. it was terrible. And, anyway, uh.. we went down to the main gate. I jumped out. My brother-in-law jumped out 'cause he was uh.. in the CBs. He was enlisted man. I ran uh.. through the main gate and down to receiving station, which is right there. It's only 50 yards from the main gate. And my wife drove the car, took off with her mother, to Kahala, where her sister was living. And uh.. we finally connected uh.. on Friday. I didn't talk to her or see her till Friday. Anyway, I got to the station, and uh.. Pe-- Commander Peterson was in his office. Uh.. and uh.. I reported for duty. And he said, uh.. "First thing we gotta do is get uh.. some .50 caliber machine guns on the roof, uh.. get a working party and a truck and go down to building so-and-so." And we brought uh.. four of them back with quite a bit of ammo and took it up on the roof and installed it on the four corners. I was showing you where we put them today. And the hatch through which we dragged them up. Uhm.. and then the next thing was to rig up some kind of communication between Peterson's office, which is on the first deck and immediately to the left if you go in that front door there, and these guns. Uh.. while that was being set up, uh.. he said, uh.. "We've got word that they wanna use Block Arena as a s--holding place for folks who were not uh.. injured but who had either lost their ships or needed a place to stay. Get a working party and go down to building so-and-so. Get all the cots and mattresses and blankets and everything you can," which we did. And I don't know if any of you ever been in Block Arena, but it was a pretty big facility. And uh.. by the time we got back, they were already pouring in. And uh.. so uh.. laid these things out all over the floor, the bou-- all of the seats uh.. and the bowling-- the two bowling alleys, uh.. and uh.. got that all organized. I had a very good chief and a first class there. And uh...

Q: Do you know about time of the day it is by now?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, this is uh.. 9:30 I guess. You know, uh.. I don't really have a strong memory of uh...

Q: The very end of the attack, sort of at the end...

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...the whole day. There was...

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Q: ...of the attacks.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Oh, yeah, the attack uh.. the last uh.. s-- uh.. sign of the attack I saw was when the Shaw blew up.

Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: And somebody knows what time that was. My guess is around 9:15, something like that.

Q: Did you experience any sort of a lull between the first wave and the second wave? Do you remember that?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yes, the first waves were- were torpedoes. We saw them coming in. The planes are coming in right over Navy housing there. Uh.. you know, as you're going toward the main gate, there's uh.. housing. Those were for chiefs. They came in very low over that, dropped their- their fish and headed uh.. at the battleships. And that was-- that was the- the first thing was Fort Island. I didn't see that. I only saw the result. Uh.. but w-- by the time we got outta the car and came out, we could see that the torpedo bombers were uh.. coming...

Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...in very low and dropping those. By the time we got up the hill, uh.. in the cane field uh.. I don't know what the timing of that first wave, those bombers in- in V formation, came. But it seemed like it was just as soon as we got up there. But there was a lull between...

Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...the first that we saw and the second that we observed. And uh.. was it 15, 20 minutes? I have no idea. I've read a lot of accounts. But uh.. that thought never entered my mind.

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Q: When you drove from the cane field down to the main gate, said goodbye to the wife, were you still seeing enemy airplanes?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Well, uh.. yeah. Uh.. you know, as you approach the main gate coming from- from Makalapa side, the Hickam, in those days, was just right out there in front of you. Uh.. it's kind of hidden now.

Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: And there was so much stuff going on there. There were planes diving on it and strafing it. I mean...

Q: And you're driving right through all of this...

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah. Oh...

Q: ...with your mother-in-law...

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Uh.. with my mother-in-law and...

Q: ...your brother-in-law...

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...my wife...

Q: ...and your wife.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...uh.. and my brother-in-law in the back. And uh.. anyway, <laughs> uh.. I think-- you asked me what time it was when we finally got through it. Uhm.. somebody would know when the Oglala sank alongside 1010 Dock. And within ten minutes, the skipper th- that was Mine uh.. Mine Fleet's flagship. And the admiral showed up at uh.. at uh.. Block Recreation Center. How they got there and how long it took them, I don't know. But I can remember them coming in. There were possibly a couple hundred of them. In the meantime, stragglers from all the other ships were coming in--

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Q: When--

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: --folks who were not wounded in any way. The fleet landing was already severely clogged with bodies. And uh.. after we got all that going, he asked me to go down there. Uh.. Pete did-- uh.. Peterson asked me to go down there. And uh.. I wanted to be of some help, but there wasn't really anything I could do. The enlisted men were doing a whale of a job. And the boats were uh.. coming in uh.. as fast as they could load them up, uh.. unload them. Then they go back out, pick up some more survivors. It was a pretty horrible thing, yeah.

Q: Do you recall seeing the Nevada on her sortie?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, s-- just saw her steaming out, you know <laughs>.

Q: You did.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: I didn't see her go aground _____ off Hospital Point there. But...

Q: But you saw her.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, I saw her moving, yeah.

Q: Did you see her guns firing?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: I can't r--

<break in recording>

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: I really thought that...

Q: Kind of...

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Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...was gonna be their main target.

Q: ...darned if you do and darned...

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: There were five tanks along. Can you imagine what that would've done?

Q: Oh, yeah.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Why they never bombed them or filled them up with _____ bullets, I don't know.

Q: Well, they're still asking that question. And they will ask that question as long as this planet exists.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, exactly.

<crew talk>

Q: Picking up again, we were just recalling the sortie of the Nevada. Any other ships do you recall seeing moving?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, you know, there was uh.. I think it was a yard tugboat. Uh.. we had quite a few yard craft here in those days. And I didn't realize that any of them were equipped as fireboats, but I can remember one of them very distinctly. I think it was shooting flames on the West Virgi-- uh.. fire-- water on the West Virginia. I'm not sure. Uh.. in any case, it was after the Arizona was gone. It was after the Oklahoma was rolled. Uh.. it was after the Tennessee got sunk. So uh.. which ship it was, I don't know. And then there was uh.. an oiler I think, a yard oiler, not an oceangoing one. But we had a number of them that...

Q: Mm-hmm.

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Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...uh.. went around the harbor. I remember that. And then some of the ships that were uh.. n- north uh.. east of the Arizona were anchored out there. I think the Phoenix and the Allen [ph?] and the Chu [ph?] were out there. There was-- there was uh.. a tender. I'm not sure which one it was. Uh.. most of them seemed to get underway. At least there was movement from that area coming around. I guess some of them went the back way around the Utah. But that area, which was pretty full anchorage, uh.. in the beginning, was cleared in a hurry. And uh.. I wound up on the Allen myself years, I mean, months later. But uh.. I wasn't aboard when <overlapping> she got underway.

Q: You had said you were obviously in the housing area. And you said you saw, I think, Captain Munson or Mumford.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, Momsen...

Q: Munson.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...Momsen, M-o-m-s-e-n. He made Momsen Lawn [ph?], uh.. the submar-- you're a submariner. You know who...

Q: Surface.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...Momsen was.

Q: Surface.

<crew talk>

Q: Do you recall seeing any other Navy captains or admirals as you were making good your way through the housing?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: No. Uh.. the houses on uh.. Maki [ph?] side of that street, like, we were on the corner of Malava [ph?] Drive, in there, were all, uh.. most of them, lieutenant commanders. And I was a very junior ensign

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<laughs> and felt uh.. we were very conscious of the fact <overlapping>
that we were about as junior as you could be. Uh...

Q: I remember being an ensign, too <laughs>.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: <laughs>

Q: Ensigns are best seen not heard.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: So, uh.. no, I didn't. And I didn't see Momsen.
But, you know, in those days, they all had their signs. And uh.. having lived
there for a week, we knew exactly who- whose house that was.

Q: Right.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, and fortunately it was one of those double-
car garages that was open to the roads. All I had to do was make a sharp
turn. And I w- we were under cover. Yeah, I mean, false cover but cover,
yeah.

Q: You mentioned you got the four .50 caliber battery set up on top.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Yeah, and unfortunately that evening, I was telling
Curtis, again, you know, we thought we had a pretty good communication
setup rigged up from Pete's office down on the first deck to the roof. But
when those planes came in, I don't know what time that was, over uh.. more
or less the entrance where Pearl Harbor is, came in rather low, it looked like,
headed for Fort Island...

Q: Mm-hmm.

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: ...everything in the Navy yard, seemed like, went
off.

Q: And you think that was also...

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Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: And our guys did, too. And they didn't get any order from me or anybody else to fire. But uh..<overlapping> very quickly we got the word that they were friendlies. And, uh.. you know, jus-- the firing stopped almost as fast as it came up. And uh.. <laughs> then things were quiet for mmm.. two or three hours. I-- as I remember, that wasn't too far after sun- sunset. And being winter, it must've been around 7:30, eight o'clock, I don't know, maybe around ten o'clock, one of the other guys, that was estab-- assigned to the station, Ike Sutton [ph?], he was an ensign like me. We were about the same age. He was out at Camp uh.. what the hell is the name of that camp? Out there on Iaya [ph?], they built a camp out there. And uh.. I was in Peter's off-- Peterson's office when the phone rang. And he picked it up. He said, "Huh?! I can't hear ya! What'd ya say?!" Pretty soon he said, "Gas attack?!" And he looked at me, and he says, "That's sudden!" He says, "They're under gas attack out at Camp..." Uh.. what's the name of that camp? So, you know, "Man the gas masks" <laughs>. Well, about a half an hour later, <laughs> Ike Sutton comes in <laughs> with a very crestfallen look. And he said, "I'm sorry, commander. But it wasn't a gas attack." And uh.. Pete said, "Well, what was it?" And he said, "Well, I think it was that stuff they use for anti- mosquito." You know that smelly stuff? I can't tell you what it was. But that was kind of a joke around the station for a while after kind of a rough day <laughs>.

Q: You said you didn't see your wife until the following Friday. What happened in that stretch of Monday through Thursday?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: You know how time disappears? And uh.. I'm 86 years old. I've still got a good memory. But uh.. if you ask me to say what happened five days in a row, the whole main focus was on that disaster out there and trying to get those people taken care of. And because I did have the recreation center as my responsibility, although I had a good chief and a good first class over there, I spent a lot of time being damn sure the place was at least sanitary. Pretty difficult to do. Uh.. several hundred people in there. But uh.. I don't know. Somehow the- the days went by. And uh.. I think probably the- the tension uh.. that they were c-- you know, they were coming back, they beat the hell out of our fleet and it was only a matter of time before they landed. And you know the rumors well. There were rumors all over the place, uh.. they sent a sub in over Waimanalo to test uh.. defenses. Uh.. we know that wasn't true. But, uh.. you know, that'd be a perfect place for a landing. Uh.. and there was all kind of scuttlebutt. D- d-- there was even uh.. a story that uh.. a submarine had fired on Maui, I think, and, uh.. you know, they were a diversion, they're trying to get our attention

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over there. Just the- the whole sense of it was uh.. what's happening next, here we are defenseless, what's happening, no air defense. Although we did get-- was it Monday or Tuesday? We got a bunch of B-17s that came in. And uh.. I'm not aware of any other support. Except uh.. I think the Enterprise, which was somewhere out at sea, came fairly close to the islands. And uh.. and their forces, their carrier uh.. sh-- planes, were available h-- w-- had they been needed. But somehow or other, uh.. I don't know, just the time went like that. It didn't go like that. But in my memory, uh.. t-- suddenly I was able to talk to my wife <laughs>.

Q: How long did they keep you at the receiving station, and where did you go after that?

Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.: Uh.. it was about first week of March when I got orders to go to the USS Allen, the tin can. And uh.. I was on her for, I think, less than a year. And I got uh.. orders to command the USS Peridot, uh.. which was one of the patrol vessels that ran the picket line out off Pearl Harbor. Uh.. headquartered at a section base, we'd go out for a week at a time and come back. And uh.. I had her for, uh.. I think, about a year. And then uh.. Commander Hawaiian Sea Frontiers' flag was uh.. was the Azure Light. And uh.. I was skipper there, and I relieved Steve Hawkins [ph?] there. And uh.. our duty consisted primarily of manning the weather station out to northeast of uh.. Japan Islands. We'd go out there uh.. for six weeks. And we had 150 uh.. mile uh.. <sirens> diameter circle we had to stay in. We had to keep total silence and open up at night. We had uh.. aerogaphers [ph?] aboard, and we'd get a coded group message of the weather and send it out. And uh.. so we- we'd go out the station six weeks and come back to Pearl and go again. <sirens continue> We'd be relieved by another one. And we got in a very, very bad storm. Uh.. I've saved the barograph trace. You won't believe it. Uh.. 120-knot winds three and four days without stopping, waves 80, 90 feet high. And uh.. make a long story short, we got disabled out there, lost our steering gear. And uh.. they wouldn't let us come back to Pearl. So we went into Midway, had a sub base there. They did some jerry-rigged repairs, and then we came back to Pearl. And after that, uh.. I was ordered to the Allen as a skipper. And so uh.. I- I went there, and I had her until s-- we decommissioned her, in Philadelphia, in uh.. November of '45, yeah, yeah.

End of Tape 427 Joseph Curtis Tyler, Jr.